Mr. Speaker, let me just thank the gentleman from Florida

for yielding me this time and for his strong leadership on each and

every committee on which he has served.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule and this resolution.

This resolution really is an affront and an insult to our troops. I

tried to offer an amendment to this very deceptive resolution. My

amendment just basically expressed deep sorrow and real support for all

of those who have been killed in this war and we extended support for

their families in my amendment.

As the daughter of a career military officer, Mr. Speaker, I know how

important this is and what this means. This resolution as it is written

never even mentions the over 550 Americans who have died. How insulting

and insensitive. It does not even mention the Iraqi civilians and all

of our international friends who have died in this war. My amendment

also stated that the war in Iraq has undermined our alliances, it has

cost hundreds of Americans and unknown numbers of Iraqi lives and

billions of dollars, and it has made the world a more dangerous place

rather than a safer place. The evidence speaks for itself on that. We

are not voting on my amendment today because once again the Republican-

controlled Committee on Rules did not allow any amendments, not only my

amendment but zero, none, they did not allow. Once again true debate is

being stifled. What a shame and disgrace. As an officer of the

Congressional Black Caucus, we continue to stand in full support of our

troops, in support of our veterans and their health benefits, and in

support of their economic security. This resolution does none of this.

None of this.

I urge my colleagues to vote ``no'' on this rule. I urge them to vote

``no'' on this resolution. Remember, this is part of a pattern of

deception which we have

seen from day one. We are talking about not only the intelligence

information that was not there but really a whole host of deceptive

measures that have come before this body that we have voted on. I hope

we vote ``no'' on this resolution. It is wrong. It is terrible.